

CLAIMS

The invention is claimed as follows:

1. A cap for use in a connector making a resealable fluid path comprising:
 5 a body defining a fluid flow passage and a disinfectant receptacle;
 a disinfectant maintained within the disinfectant receptacle; and
 a seal disposed within the body that seals the disinfectant between the seal and
 the disinfectant receptacle.
- 10 2. The cap of Claim 1, wherein the body defines an opening that receives a fluid
 communication member capable of displacing the seal when received by the body.
3. The cap of Claim 2, wherein the disinfectant disperses between an outer wall of
 the fluid communication member and an inner wall of the body when the seal is
 15 displaced.
4. The cap of Claim 1, wherein the body defines a plurality of outer threads.
5. The cap of Claim 4, wherein the outer threads engage a plurality of mating
 20 threads of a shell and enable the shell to translate with respect to the body so that the
 shell causes a sealed end of the body to be pierced.
6. The cap of Claim 1, wherein the body defines a plurality of inner threads.
- 25 7. The cap of Claim 6, wherein the inner threads engage a plurality of mating
 threads of a fluid communication member and enable the fluid communication
 member to translate with respect to the body so that the fluid communication member
 causes the seal to be displaced.
- 30 8. The cap of Claim 1, wherein the seal is moveable.

18. A method for providing a sterile connection of a dialysate line comprising the steps of:

providing a cap that has a passage and maintains a seal that houses a disinfectant;

5 connecting a first member to a first end of the cap wherein the first member is in fluid communication with a first dialysate line; and

connecting a second member to a second end of the cap so as to displace the seal and the disinfectant wherein the second member is in fluid communication with a second dialysate line.

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19. The method of Claim 18, wherein connecting the first member includes moving the first member so as to pierce a sealed end of the cap, placing the first member in fluid communication with the second member.

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20. The method of Claim 19, wherein the sealed end of the cap seals about the first member when the first member pierces the sealed end.

21. The method of Claim 19, wherein the sealed end of the cap reseals when the first member is removed from the cap.

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22. The method of Claim 18, wherein rupturing the seal includes threading the second member into the cap and exerting pressure on the seal.

23. The method of Claim 18, wherein connecting the second member includes
25 displacing the disinfectant between the cap and the second member.

24. The method of Claim 18, which includes maintaining the disinfectant between the cap and the second member after the seal is displaced.

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25. The method of Claim 18, which includes removing the first member from the cap such that the sterile connection between the cap and the second member is maintained.

[illegible]

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providing a first member in fluid communication with a dialysate container, a second member in fluid communication with a peritoneal cavity of a patient, and a cap that has a sealed first end, a second end, a passage and maintains a seal that houses a disinfectant;

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connecting the second member to the second end of the cap so as to displace the seal and the disinfectant and cause the first member to pierce the sealed first end of the cap;

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28. The method of Claim 27, which includes removing an amount of spent dialysate fluid from the peritoneal cavity prior to filling the peritoneal cavity with the fresh dialysate fluid.

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29. The method of Claim 27, wherein the filling and removing steps are performed manually.